

VIETNAM COURIER

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NORTH VIET NAM

A F4 Phantom fighter-bomber and 2 unmanned spy planes respectively grounded in Quang Binh province on May 17 and over Haiphong on May 18 and 23.

Total loss in U.S. planes between August 5, 1964 and May 23, 1969:

3,291

Between the night of May 11 and May 15, 1969

400 TARGETS IN 80 CITIES AND URBAN CENTRES

The NFL Ten Points Show the Way to a Viet Nam Settlement

ON November 3, 1969 while announcing its acceptance to participate in the Paris Conference, the NFL proclaimed its five points which should guide the Conference work and serve as a basis for any sound solution to the Vietnam problem. On May 8, 1969 as the Conference was moving time after three and a half months of negotiations as a result of U.S. bad faith, a new text was presented to it by the NFL representative; that is the principles and main content of a ten-point overall solution to the South Vietnamese problem to help restore peace in Vietnam.

Stemming both from the NFL Political Program passed in August 1967, these two successive documents are pervaded with the same spirit of independence and peace — true independence in genuine peace. With the ten-point overall solution, the NFL position concerning a Vietnam settlement has now been made clear in a distilled and concrete manner and the parties concerned can take it as a basis to conclude agreements with which to crown the Conference.

The tenor of the NFL proposal from its beginning to its end is the principle of respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and for the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese. To make possible the full exercise of these rights, the NFL document stresses, first of all, U.S. aggression against Vietnam should be ended, and more particularly the United States should withdraw from South Vietnam all U.S. and satellite troops and military personnel, without setting any condition whatsoever. A clear distinction should be drawn between the withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops and the problem of Vietnamese forces in South Vietnamese, the latter issue coming under the sole competence of the Vietnamese parties concerned.

The South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination is embodied in their freedom to choose their own government. The NFL has been favouring free, democratic general elections to form such a government. Now in its overall solution, it gives an unambiguous answer to the question: who will be responsible for the organizing of general election? It will be — the NFL says — a provisional coalition government resulting from negotiations between "the political forces representing the various social strata and political tendencies in South Vietnam that stand for peace, independence and neutrality". Isn't this an appropriate proposal fully conforming to the spirit of national concord and large union?

The NFL ten points once again re-affirm the foreign policy of peace and neutrality to be implemented by a South Vietnam free from American control. They also outline a process of peaceful and gradual reunification of both zones of Vietnam. What is noteworthy here is that while confirming the existence of a military demarcation line and a demilitarized zone separating the two parts of Vietnam, the NFL makes it a point to stress that the former is only of a provisional character and "does not constitute in any way a political or territorial boundary" and that it is up to the two zones to come to terms on the statute of the demilitarized zone and work out modalities for movements across the provisional demarcation line. This is a relevant answer to the U.S. attempt to transform the DMZ issue into a major topic to be discussed by the four-party Conference and a

(Continued page 2)

Including 23 Airfields and 33 Bases, HQs and CPs of Army Corps, Divisions, Brigades and Regiments Attacked by PLAF

Preliminary Reports:

15 Battalions and Equivalent Units and an Armoured Corps of the U.S. - Puppets Destroyed or Decimated

PAGE 8

Quang Nam province
PLAF men in action.



PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM HOLDS 18th PLENARY SESSION (May 22, 1969)

THE Saigon administration's unequivocal opposition to the NFL ten-point overall solution was voiced by the puppet's representative at the 18th plenary session of the Paris Conference. At the same session, U.S. representative Cabot Lodge reiterated the "mutual withdrawal of troops" plea contained in President Nixon's May 14 speech. He used specious arguments to prove that the U.S. was, for the respect of the South Vietnamese people, right to self-determination, but this was only to camouflage U.S. intention to continue in office the rotten and warlike Thieu-Ky-Huong regime as tool for the achievement of U.S. neo-colonialism in South Vietnam.

NFL delegate Tran Bui Kiem pointed out that the U.S. "mutual withdrawal of troops" thesis testified to the American rulers' stubborn denial to the Vietnamese people of their fundamental national rights and right to self-determination in face of U.S. aggression. In sticking to it, the men in Washington persisted in putting on an equal footing the aggressors and those who oppose aggression and in confusing the issues between the United States and the Vietnamese people with those to be settled among Vietnamese parties. By calling Mr. Nixon's proposals a two-stage withdrawal of troops from South Viet Nam, with

U.S. troops, the first stage of which lasting 12 months and the second having no definite time limit, the NFL chief negotiator said that this was a proof of the U.S. design to protract American military presence in South Viet Nam so as to gain time to consolidate the puppet army and administration and to "de-Americanize" and "Vietnamize" the war.

The Front's envoy severely castigated the American rulers' disregard of the idea of a coalition government when dealing with "free elections". On the other hand, they lavished praise on Nguyen Van Thieu's six-point plan which demanded that members of the NFL "renounce the use of force" and participate in elections organized within the framework of the Saigon constitution. "The Thieu-Ky-Huong administration is totally illegal and represents nobody," said Mr. Tran Bui Kiem.

"The NFL supports the struggle of South Viet Nam townfolk for the removal of this administration and its replacement by a peace cabinet with a view to putting an early end to the war."

Taking the floor in his turn, DRVN delegation leader Xuan Thuy stressed the necessity of the withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, with

no condition attached; this was a touchstone of soundness of any solution offered to the Vietnamese problem. The NFL ten-point overall solution enjoyed the warm support from world opinion, precisely because it met this requirement. On the contrary, Mr. Nixon's 14 May speech was not reasonable because it included the "mutual withdrawal of troops" thesis which had been rejected by the NFL and the DRVN. The reason given by Mr. Nixon for his refusal to accept "unilateral withdrawal" of U.S. troops, Mr. Xuan Thuy pointed out, was that such a step would be followed by massacres in South Viet Nam. This held no water, the DRVN chief negotiator said, since it was none other than the United States that has been deploying its "formidable" war machine in massacres of South Vietnamese.

Mr. Xuan Thuy denounced U.S. intensification of "mopping up" operations in South Viet Nam and repeated violations of its sovereignty and threats to the security of the DRVN. He concluded that although the NFL had the DRVN chief with its ten-point overall solution, the Paris Conference made no headway precisely because the U.S. was still holding to its warlike and neo-colonialist policy.

Hanoi Press Opinion

Tottering SEATO

ON May 20, 1969, the U.S.-led Seato aggressive military bloc met in Bangkok. For the last few years, it has been nodding to its disintegration. US heavy setbacks in the Vietnam war of aggression have shaken the American leadership of the imperialist camp and badly hurt its influence with its satellites. France, one of Seato founding members, has been for the last three years boycotting its sessions and military maneuvers. Pakistan has been coldshouldering its activities and recently demanded that US military bases be removed from her territory. Great Britain, though supporting the US policy of aggression, has been assailed by financial difficulties and compelled to withdraw her forces from Asian countries for a more efficient defence of her Middle East interests. Thailand and the Philippines have been forced by the US to ship in troops for the war of aggression in Viet Nam, but now they have begun to complain about the too heavy burdens and responsibilities placed on their shoulders by the US, for which they have been receiving little in return.

The Thailand's Foreign Minister, a man known as a docile agent of the US, has just suggested that the Seato be transformed into a political forum instead of retaining a military alliance, whereas his Philippine counterpart wondered whether it would be advisable simply to wind up the military bloc (UPI May 2).

It is in such conditions that Secretary of State Rogers was sent to the Seato meeting in Bangkok. His mission was firstly to remove the anguish from U.S. satellites, minds, and secondly to patch up the tottering alliance and gear it up more efficiently to the US war of aggression in Viet Nam. Freshly arrived at the capital of Thailand, Rogers declared that there would be no change in American policy toward Southeast Asia and that the U.S. was resolved to maintain and refloat the Seato.

It is clear that the U.S. imperialists are endeavouring to get out of the present quagmire, thereby exposing their difficulties and weaknesses. Inner dissensions and threat of collapse now plaguing the Seato as well as the Nato and the Cento are indicative of the utter isolation of the US and of the fiasco of its policy of aggressive military alliances.

Quen dot Nhan Dan (People's Army, May 21, 1969)

The NFL Ten Points...

(Continued on page 1)

symbol of the defence of the separate State of South Vietnam against the alleged invasion by the North Vietnamese!

The last two points of the NFL relate to two other aspects of the Vietnam settlement, namely the aftermath of the war and international supervision of the withdrawal from South Vietnam of U.S. and satellite troops.

As can be seen, the solution proposed by the NFL is an "all-around" one. All important aspects of an eventual settlement are included in it, and the solution suggested by the NFL to each one of those aspects faithfully reflects the principle of respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the spirit of national concord permeating the exercise by the South Vietnamese people of their right to self-determination. At the same time, the overall solution supplies all

guarantees for a lasting peace in this part of the world.

It is easy to imagine the warm welcome accorded by the whole world and especially by American opinion to the NFL ten-point all round solution. For several months now, the American nation has been expecting President Nixon to live up to his electoral pledge to achieve a prompt cessation of the Viet Nam war. Day after day has passed and the list of U.S. casualties has been only growing longer; neither the change in military strategy nor the massive use of B-52s contributed to improve the position of the U.S. Democratic and Republican congressmen alike have got impatient. Businessmen have voiced their dissent. A whole city council — that of Chicago — by a unanimous vote urged President Nixon to bring home the GIs. And

now there appears the NFL overall solution which shows the way to a rational settlement, to an "honorable peace" for the United States!

Prompted by the desire to dam up the tidal wave of support for the ten points, Mr. Nixon hastily delivered his May 14 speech. His long-advocated "peace programme" was at last made public. People were expecting from it something novel and constructive. But nothing of the sort came! A number of American papers agreed with Representative D. Fraser who found in Mr. Nixon's speech not any element that had not been put forward by the American side to the Paris Conference.

Mr. Nixon was clever enough to even pay tribute to the NFL initiative. But to a shrewd observer what is important is the American President's own conception of a solution to the Viet Nam

issue. And what a disappointment for him in this respect!

It is now transparent that Mr. Nixon refused to stop U.S. aggression against Viet Nam. He did not want to withdraw from South Viet Nam U.S. and satellite troops since he kept on setting terms with such a withdrawal. He also refused to recognize the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination since he threw the weight of his support behind traitor Nguyen Van Thieu's six points which proposed that the NFL lay down its weapons and rally the Saigon puppet regime.

It is true that Mr. Nixon still hopes that time will work in his favour and will help him secure a position of strength from which he will be able to sell his peace programme to the Paris Conference but all this is sheer illusion! A similar hope was once entertained by Mr. Johnson and his aides. Some of the latter however have been awakened to this bitter reality: the situation, far from having been unconsciously from bad to worse for the American aggressors, will Mr. Nixon wait until the total collapse of his house of cards to lend a more attentive ear to the NFL proposals?

What are Mr. Nixon's true intentions? What his generals are doing in South Viet Nam and what he himself just declared in Washington on May 14 — all converge and cast a strong light on his

THE NORTH — GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY, JUNE 1

Tending the Young Shoots of the Fatherland

HO TRUC

Vice-Minister of Education,
Secretary of the Viet Nam Working Youth Union

PRESIDENT HO AND "SPRING OF HUMANITY"

THE year begins with youth. Youth is the Spring of humanity. These words are taken from President Ho Chi Minh's letter to the youth and children throughout the country on the occasion of New Year's Day 1969. Shortly after the triumph of the August Revolution and the founding of the DRVN, President Ho Chi Minh sent a letter to the pupils on the occasion of the beginning of term (Sept. 1945) "Listen to me, my nieces and nephews," he wrote, "listen to a person who has always been earnestly wishing for your progress. In the coming school-year, strive to be industrious in learning, be well, obey your teachers and emulate your friends. Eighty years of slavery have enfeebled our people. To lay we must restore the heritage left by our ancestors in such a way that we can catch up with other countries on this globe. In this reconstruction work, the country places much hope and trust in you. Whether the land of Viet Nam will regain its glory or not, whether the Vietnamese nation will have the honour to march abreast with the great powers of the five continents or not depends largely on your efforts in learning..."

And so, it has become a custom since the August Revolution, that every year, on the occasion of the New Year's Day (1) or the new school-year, Uncle Ho writes letters to encourage and enlighten Vietnamese children. He teaches them:

- to love their Fatherland and their fellow-countrymen;
- to achieve good results in learning and in manual labour;
- to live in harmony with each other and observe discipline;
- to practise hygiene; and
- to be modest, honest and courageous;

These teachings have set the standards of the new virtues for our school-pupils. Uncle Ho has also initiated the "teach-well, learn-well" emulation movement and has many times given detailed instructions to the teaching body to help the pupils clearly realise its duties and tasks and master new educational methods in order to

train the pupil into a new man with a well-balanced and all-sided development, and not simply to teach knowledge. Every year, the President commands good teachers and good pupils.

Fired by this great concern and care, the youth and children of our country have launched a broad campaign of a mass character called "Act up to Uncle Ho's teachings and strive to become his good nieces and nephews." drive. So far, 2.5 million Vietnamese children have been honoured as "Uncle Ho's good nieces and nephews."

ACTING UP TO UNCLE HO'S TEACHINGS.

ADDRESSING the Vietnamese children in the first Mid-Autumn Festival of the DRVN, Uncle Ho admonished, "you must love your country. I hope to-morrow you'll grow up into worthy, pious and independent and free state." The crop of children of 1945 later became grown-up and imbued with Uncle Ho's teachings, they have manifested their love for the Fatherland and fellow-country-

men by taking up arms against foreign aggressors and a good many of them today are "Valiant anti-Yankee fighters." They have also served as shock troops on the production front. As workers and peasants of the new generation, as young socialist intellectuals, they are contributing to bringing glory to the Viet Nam Fatherland. Organized and led by the Viet Nam Working Youth Union the members of the Viet Nam Vanguard Young Pioneers Brigade today demonstrate their love for the country and the socialist regime with the "One thousand good deeds" movement launched by pupils of the elementary schools of Lien Son village (Ha Bac province).

"One thousand good deeds" are daily routine, ordinary but full of meaning, such as providing the army men with food, clothing, collecting rags for them to clean their guns, coming to the assistance of aged, poor and disabled families of fallen or disabled army men, tending buffaloes and oxen and other domestic animals, etc. In many localities, children form their own dance and song groups and give performances to

mobilise the people to fight and to produce better. In Quang Nam, North Viet Nam's coal-producing province alone, there are 800 such dance and song ensembles. The tree-planting and the tree-protection movement have also become popular with the children. In 1968, children of 6 ethnic groups of Hoa Binh province planted more than 22,000 fruit trees. To help improve the diet of the army men as a sign of their affection for the fighting men, children have

started an "anti-Yankee poultry raising" drive. Those of Nam Ha and Ha Tay provinces have so far raised 265,000 head of poultry and supplied tens of thousands of meat for the army men. Under the motto "Buffaloes and oxen are friends, Yankees are foes",

(Continued page 2)



In an infant class.

CHILDREN'S DAY STORIES

JUNE First, International Children's Day. It is a greatly meaningful day. To the children, it means before sitting down to mothers, it heralds the bright future of their children.

But in Viet Nam, nobody can forget the presence of 54,000 GIs in the southern part of their country, the U.S. 7th Fleet in the Mekong Gulf, the jets, the stratofortresses...

Monstrous crimes have been committed in Viet Nam. On the occasion of the International Children's Day, let's speak a little about the victims, women and children against whom the "nightmarish army of the world" has been unleashed.

AS THE FESTIVAL WAS AT ITS GAYEST

EVERY year when comes mid-Autumn and the moon appears in all its splendor, it is the Children's Festival in Viet Nam. According to an age-old tradition, on that day the children

gather and give themselves heart and soul to their favourite games: unicorn dances, torch processions before sitting down to mothers, it heralds the bright future of their children.

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Binh. Such Oradours and massacres can be found almost everywhere in Viet Nam.

"INTRA-UTERINE" CASUALTIES.

It sometimes happened that even before being brought to the world, Vietnamese children were victims of American barbarity. On April 14, 1968 after a massive U.S. attack on Nam Dinh city in the early morning, one found among the casualties a pregnant woman named Tran Thi Nam, hit by several steel-pellet bombs. During a subsequent operation the doctors found in the heart of the foetus a steel pellet which, entering by the amniotic sac, had travelled obliquely her body to fatally strike the heart of the unborn baby.

But there were instances where the victim was innocently saved thanks to prompt attention. It was the case of little Bao Ngoc whose photograph was released to the press at the time. On July 3, 1969, when Mrs Le

thi Khanh, his mother, was carrying in her arms her 4-year old eldest son, U.S. planes flew in and bombed her living quarters located in the Hiep Hoa district (Ha Bac province). Mrs. Khanh, then only about 15 days to her term, received multiple wounds. Urgently operated on, she was saved. When the surgeons took out the baby, they found with their shock that he carried on his left temple a V-shaped metal object the size of a human finger bone. It was one of the bomb splinters that had perforated the mother's abdomen. The child was saved, too. It was perhaps the only survivor of American barbarity, hit right in the womb of his mother.

EXCERPTS FROM A MOTHER'S DIARY.

THERE have been cases where the pathetic horror and hatred challenge ed all rhetorics and of which no word is to render the vivid impression. The following lines taken from a diary of a young woman in Quang Binh, named Pham Thi Yen are illustrative enough.

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Why is U.S. Aggression in South Vietnam becoming a complete failure

(Continued from last issue)

Commentary by Chien Thang

II. U.S. PREDICAMENT AND IMPASSE

What motivated U.S. "escalation" and "de-escalation": U.S. military setbacks

THE unfolding of the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam has been a process of step-by-step escalation to the highest rung of the war ladder only to scale down, fated throughout to inevitable doom.

In their aggression against Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists first applied neo-colonialism through economic, "aid" and political and military subjugation, next conducted a "special war," then switched over to the "local war" strategy in South Viet Nam. From gradual introduction of U.S. troops into South Viet Nam, they have had to massively and extensively bring their troop strength up to 550,000 men. The war, first limited to South Viet Nam, was extended to North in the form of a war of destruction waged chiefly from the air, by progressively raising the level of escalation. Nevertheless, each time the U.S. imperialists failed, and the U.S. imperialists had to resort to a de-escalation process with "limited bombing," unconditional cessation of bombardments in the whole of North Viet Nam, and reversion to the limited war within South Viet Nam. The special war by the puppet troops under U.S. command to the extensive Americanisation of the war, the Americans are now scheming the "de-Americanisation" of the war and "passing the buck" to the puppet troops.

The Americans have had to fall back from the "lightning counter-offensive" strategy upon the defensive "clear-and-hold" strategy, but in both aspects "clear-and-hold"

the result have turned out to be far from satisfactory.

From open military aggression, they were driven to the conference table for talks with the DRVN Government, and five months later to a 4-party conference with the participation of the South Viet Nam SPL delegation as an independent and equal party, face to face with them.

It is clear that their increasingly bitter failures have deprived them of the initiative in their various moves and confined them in a vicious circle. Both escalation and de-escalation have been motivated by their setbacks. The process of U.S. aggression against Viet Nam has been a string of U.S. mistakes and failures. Failures, escalations, then greater failures. After having escalated the war to a high peak only to court very heavy setbacks, the Americans have glided into a downward turn.

The general offensives and simultaneous cessation of bombardments in the whole of North Viet Nam, and reversion to the limited war within South Viet Nam, marked a turning point in the war. Our people have suffered in a new period with a new battle array, new strength, new methods of fighting, and have been ever since bringing to play the composite strength of revolutionary war and achieving one great success after another. The war of resistance to U.S. aggression for national salvation of our entire people still has very trying days ahead but is heading vigorously and steadily for final victory.

The Americans have had to fall back from the "lightning counter-offensive" strategy upon the defensive "clear-and-hold" strategy, but in both aspects "clear-and-hold"

ties in this country, in the States and in the world, in all respects: military, political, diplomatic, economic and social. These cannot be solved short of a settlement of the U.S. war. They have failed but they still try hard to stave off failure and reduce its harmful effects on their global strategy and their military, economic and political position in the world and therefore no escape route fits in with their calculations.

The U.S. imperialists want to get out of the Viet Nam war but also want to preserve their prestige and "honor" and their colonialist position and interests in South Viet Nam. That is why they have been trying their best to take the initiative in settling the war and to do so from a certain position of strength.

But the position and strength of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people keep growing and the longer they fight, the more they win. As for the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, they are finding themselves in greater passivity and more and more on the defensive and their strength is on the wane. The more desperately the U.S. seeks a strong position, the weaker and the

more passive its position becomes.

The U.S. wants to "de-Americanise" the war and shift the war burden on to the puppet troops, but the latter are still too weak and will never be strong enough to take over. If the U.S. hangs on to Viet Nam to beef up the puppet army, it will never be able to extricate itself from the war. The political pressure from Americans for a prompt cessation of the Viet Nam war of aggression by the Nixon Administration keeps increasing. Meanwhile the Thieu-Ky puppet administration is seeking to prolong the presence of U.S. expeditionary troops in South Viet Nam. As a result, the antagonisms between the American people and U.S. rulers, and between the puppet troops and the American people ever sharper. Time is not on the U.S. side. It is on its adversary's.

On the horns of such dilemmas the Nixon Administration has been at a loss to find an answer and has worked out many formulas to settle the war in Viet Nam, as disclosed by Kissinger, the presidential top diplomat. All in all, the formulae of little practicality and the one most palatable to the U.S. colonialist taste is precisely the least feasible.

A search for a position of strength, Mr Nixon's wild dream.

THIS year's Spring onslaughts of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people have not only aggravated the above-mentioned dilemmas but also increased the difficulties facing the U.S. aggressors. The American people's protest against the prolongation by the Nixon Administration of the war of aggression in Viet Nam is gaining great momentum. Many U.S. senators have sharply scolded Nixon, even during the "honeymoon" period of the new president. Nixon is finding himself under strong pressure to reverse on the end to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and in the world, for an early end to the aggressive war.

The Spring attacks of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people have not only plunged the U.S. defence strategy into a serious crisis but have also dealt a heavy blow at the GIs' morale already at its low ebb. The American aggressors are alarmed at US heavy battle casualties for lack of an antidote to the effective combat methods of the PLAF. The differences are growing among high-ranking US officers as to the appraisal of the military and political situation in South Viet Nam. In the front of the aggressors are the "Viet Cong" who instead of weakening at all are getting stronger. Meanwhile the situation of the US puppet is worsening unmistakably.

The "strong position" Nixon is seeking is indeed a pipe dream. Although the U.S. imperialists still command great economic and military potentials, vast troop strength and abundant weaponry, their position remains weak because of the following factors:

In fact, there is a limit to the US

economic and military potentials and it is clear that though mobilised to a high point, these have failed to prevent the aggressors' setback. At present, the U.S. is facing great financial stresses and the huge war spending has led to tax increases, inflation and monetary crisis.

Not only has the U.S. already been unsuccessful in its counter-offensive strategy but now it is so in its defensive strategy. It is unable to put a halt to its setbacks. On the contrary, the more it drags on the war of aggression, the more disastrous its reverses will be.

The Saigon puppet army and administration's weakness is beyond remedy. The morale of the U.S. and puppet soldiers has sunk to a critical low. U.S. rulers are under the increasingly powerful pressure of the American people for an end to the aggressive war in Viet Nam. Among U.S. rulers themselves, even the most "hawkish" figures like Senator Russell have admitted that U.S. intervention in Viet Nam was a mistake (*Evening Star*, Apr. 21).

To put an end to U.S. great power wars in Viet Nam, the economic and social difficulties at home and many other U.S. difficulties abroad, an early end to the war in Viet Nam is the only sensible course. Failure to take it will only give rise to fresh ones.

When Johnson still had at his disposal all the necessary trump cards to secure a position of strength

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* Sub-heads and bold-faced emphases are ours—Ed.

VIENT NAM COURIER

ENTERING this village hidden behind lush tropical verdure, I could hardly imagine the trials endured and the victories won by the inhabitants of Cam Binh.

Formerly the population of Cam Binh lived in utter misery, and uttering was almost total. Under the colonial rule, the colonialists set up a military post in the village defended by Vietnamese soldiers called "indigenous troops". That was probably all that deserved attention in the village. After the August 1945 Revolution, the village started organizing itself for a long war of resistance which was to last until 1951. Then came the building of socialism which was, alas, too short a period brutally disrupted by the intrusion of the "Johnsons" (as the Vietnamese people called the pirate U.S. aircraft—Ed.) in September 1965. For three consecutive days, a school in the village was attacked and destroyed with bombs and rockets. The raid, however, did not inflict any casualty since pupils and teachers had been evacuated. It must be pointed out that this savage air strike had been carefully planned because in August 1965, enemy reconnaissance planes had come and dropped flares on the village. In no case could this destruction of the school be attributed to chance.

This marked the beginning of a holocaust that was to last four years in an area with 3,200 inhabitants. During this period, the enemy launched 229 raids against Cam Binh, dropping more than 5,000 bombs and 100,000 rockets. The enemy's sorties reached their climax from April 1968 — when an enormous "limited bombing" of November 1968. The planes came from two directions: either from the Viet Nam coast a few miles off, or from Thailand. The population kept their eyes on the sky and thanks to good shelters and evacuation, the casualties were kept at a fairly low level. It is regrettable, however, that a schoolboy of 15 was killed in his home during a bombing by co-

ordinates reading. Two families also suffered frightful losses. The first was taking its mid-day lunch when the pirates came and killed the mother, a 5-year-old girl and wounding her oldest sister. The second, the family of Mr. Thinh, was about to go to the fields when the enemy bombing cut down the father, the mother and the baby she was suckling. In terms of material losses, besides the houses which were damaged, 27 others were literally razed to the ground.

To meet these repeated and serious attacks the people organised a self-defence militia. Many planes were shot down by the militia. On April 22, 1968, three young militiamen opened up on a U.S. plane which crashed 20 km away. Nevertheless, in one night the enemy dropped as many as 20 bombs and the raids on communal lines as well as the ricefields in Cam Binh were estimated at 91. One might think that under such a deluge of bombs, the local people who stayed in the village would have been forced into a life of troglodytes, thus vindicating the threats by the colonialist Curtis LeMay who once declared that North Viet Nam must be bombed back to the stone age. As a matter of fact, as it may appear, there was nothing like that and the West which I might represent could see with its own eyes that during this war of destruction, not only the villages had victoriously fought off enemy planes, but also succeeded in expanding production and, especially, in turning Cam Binh into an exemplary village as far as the development of education and culture is concerned, for which Cam Binh has frequently been cited as a model in all North Viet Nam.

Had it not been for the shattered skeletons of former brick houses and the innumerable bomb craters, one might have been led to believe so flourishing. Needless to say, these are not the work of a high level of civilisation but the result of the mobilized local population without exception and this mobilization has been total. Every-

CAM BINH: Vietnamese Education in War-time

(An European traveller's note)

one in the village has done his or her best to develop economy and education, to stand up against an enemy who is as brutal as well-armed. The Secretary of the Committee said: "We have been able to reach a high level in socialist construction in all fields and more particularly we were able to keep a fundamental and comprehensive education going right at a time when the enemy was out to destroy us by every means." In this village alone there are now 19 classes teaching 799 pupils, including 37, a mark of recovery counting 20 infant classes for 510 scholars. The classes of the 1st and 2nd degrees of general education count 97 pupils. And there is also a third degree class with an enrolment of 50. In Viet Nam, the order of the classes is exactly the inverse of ours, that is to say, those of the first degree range from the first to fourth forms, those of the second degree, from the fifth to seventh forms, and those of the third degree, from the eighth to tenth forms. Besides these courses destined for boys and girls of school age, there are also reserved evening courses for adults. All in all, considering the role of people attending classes amounts to 1,075, or 62% of the population (3,200 inhabitants).

The examples of assiduity and, given the circumstances one may say of heroism in the pursuit of education are numerous. The cadres themselves are continuing their studies at a high level. Even those persons who have far surpassed school age still can go on getting education in a particular branch of

general culture, technique and topical problems. There is, for instance, the case of this woman of 46, a mother of eight, who has been following courses for adults. Another woman, Nguyen Thi Lien, head of a production team, is attending a fifth form class. Nguyen Binh Ngan, president of the co-op, is sitting in the eighth form. Then we can find an admirable example of the degree of political consciousness and self-effacement of this people in Dang Thi Tuoi, 37, a mark of recovery whose husband is in the army and who is working in the co-op. She has been an assiduous pupil of the sixth form. The goal the Party Committee is striving for is to see to it that all the villagers attain the fourth form standard. As for the leading cadres, they must strive for a level ranging from the fifth to tenth form. As for recreation and cultural activities, there are clubs for adults as well as for children. By exhorting the population to learn and by participating in this movement, the Party leadership and the administrative cadres wanted to bring home to the population the decisive role of science and technique in production.

To every Cam Binh villager education is the local culture is the key. There are three enemies to overcome: famine, aggression and poverty. It can be said that in this area of Viet Nam probably more than anywhere else, man has made everything with his own hands. Having to fight against a military poverty, an obscurantism, carefully cultivated by

the colonialists and finally a merciless enemy, everyone must show exceptional human qualities to resist and to march ahead. This is above all the result of a will to rise up by all means to fight against all the calamities that have befallen this people. Men and women here are confident, looking toward the future and this can be seen in the smallest details. For instance, everyone has set up a common fund of 20,000 "dong" meant for the building of new and better houses when peace has returned.

As far as the development of education is concerned, the teachers form a revolutionary community, devoted soul and body to their school. Under the leadership of a clear-sighted Party Committee and relying on a well-tested revolutionary line, they have succeeded in insuring in the population the love for study and creation.

To increase crop output, they have taken soil sampling, the Party leadership and the administrative cadres wanted to bring home to the population the decisive role of science and technique in production. To every Cam Binh villager education is the local culture is the key. There are three enemies to overcome: famine, aggression and poverty. It can be said that in this area of Viet Nam probably more than anywhere else, man has made everything with his own hands. Having to fight against a military poverty, an obscurantism, carefully cultivated by

S. Crimes in South Viet Nam in the first half of May

THE crimes committed by the Americans and their valets in Viet Nam in the first half of May were exposed by the Committee to Denounce War Crimes of the U.S. Imperialists and their Henchmen in South Viet Nam and by the Commission of Investigation of U.S. Imperialists' War Crimes in Viet Nam.

According to a communiqué of the Committee, during the period under review, the U.S. and their lackeys carried out their war of aggression and their troops committed heinous crimes against the South Vietnamese people.

From May 1 to 6, American aircraft and artillery bombed without let-up the southern part of the DMZ

while U.S. "Marines" continued up to May 9 the "sweeps" they had been mounting since February 23 against the provinces of Quang Tri provinces. On May 5, 8,000 enemy troops continued a new raid on the So region, West of Thua Thien.

In Central Trung Bo, the U.S. troops were made in Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh and Phu Yen provinces. Especially on May 5, nearly 3,000 GIs, supported by two puppet battalions and four South Korean commandos launched a new operation in Ba Lang An, Quang Ngai province, under the command of the American Colonel William Doty (in February and March, over 200 people there had been killed and over thousands of others

drowned in the sea). In Nam Bo, "sweeps" were also undertaken in several provinces, especially in Tay Ninh by the First Cav. since May 8, in Binh Son (Binh Hoa province) by the 2nd Cavalry Division, and in and in Van Khanh, Dong Hung, Dong Thang and Dong Hoa villages (Ragla province) by GIs and puppet troops from May 3 to 8. Nearly all these operations were supported by planes, including B-52, armoured cars and artillery. Thousands of civilians were killed or wounded, hundreds of villages destroyed.

The commune then denounced the daily the American on many regions, chiefly the May 1 bombardments during which Tay Ninh and other provinces had received 3,000 tons of bombs.

On the U.S. war acts against North Viet Nam, the communiqué of the Committee to Denounce War Crimes in Viet Nam said:

The U.S. flew 400 reconnaissance missions over 20 provinces and cities, totaling 60 manned or unmanned sorties (half as much again in the first half of April).

U.S. planes made 7 spy flights over Hanoi and 7 over Haiphong port city.

They repeatedly bombed and strafed several populated areas in Quang Binh province, including Vinh Linh area.

Anyone who had the opportunity to witness the remarkable results achieved by the teachers and population of Cam Binh, cannot have any doubt that such objectives, attained by the thousands, will be attained as scheduled.

Having succeeded in pushing ahead their activities, the teachers and the population of Cam Binh, cannot have any doubt that such objectives, attained by the thousands, will be attained as scheduled. Having succeeded in pushing ahead their activities, the teachers and the population of Cam Binh, cannot have any doubt that such objectives, attained by the thousands, will be attained as scheduled. Having succeeded in pushing ahead their activities, the teachers and the population of Cam Binh, cannot have any doubt that such objectives, attained by the thousands, will be attained as scheduled.

ANTOINETTE DAUPHIN

VIENT NAM COURIER

Week of International Solidarity with the Arab People

Support for Arab People's Just Cause

by TON QUANG PHUET
President, Viet Nam Arab-African
Solidarity Committee

EARLY this year, the Cairo International Conference in support of the Arab People decided that a Week of International Solidarity with the Arab People would be held throughout the world at the end of May.

Today, the Middle East Crisis dragging, because the Israeli aggressors "still insist" in refusing to withdraw from the areas they invaded during the war of aggression against the Arab countries in early June 1967. There they are stepping up persecution of the Arabs, driving hundreds of thousands of them from their native land. The Israeli aggressors have also staged military provocative actions against Arab countries. Especially since early this year, they have repeatedly sent aircraft, tanks and commandos across the ceasefire boundary to attack the United Arab Republic, Jordan, Syria, the Lebanon and other Arab countries.

The Western imperialists, chiefly the U.S. and British imperialists are behind these aggressive tactics. They are defending their oil interests in this part of the world.

Indignant at the naked acts of aggression and barbarous crimes of the Israeli aggressors, the Arab people are strengthening solidarity and resorting to all methods of struggle to defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity. They have made out due punishment to the Israeli provocateurs, by shooting down many aircraft, destroying many tanks, and

wiping out many enemy troops.

It is clear that no violence can subdue the Arab people. So long as the Israeli aggressor troops refuse to pull out of the Arab zone they have invaded and so long as the legitimate national rights of the Palestine people continue to be flouted, the Arab people will carry on their courageous fight till complete victory. The struggle of the world's peoples for national independence and peace has developed ever more vigorously and recorded ever greater successes. By countering the trend of history and obliterating clinging to their policy of aggression and expansion, the U.S. imperialists and the Arab reactionary clique will certainly meet with failure.

The Vietnamese people

fully sympathize with, and support, the just struggle of the Arab people. They strongly condemn the Israeli aggressors, benchmark of the U.S. imperialism, and firmly demand that they withdraw from the Arab territories they have invaded and respect the Arab countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity and the legitimate national rights of the Arab people in Palestine.

On the occasion of the Week of International Solidarity with the Arab People, the Vietnamese people convey to the Arab people their greetings of militant solidarity and express their conviction that, with the strength of unity and the broad support from the world's peoples, the Arab people's just cause will finally triumph.

STOCKHOLM VIET NAM CONFERENCE
CALLS ON MASSES TO BACK NFL
OVERALL SOLUTION

THE Conference for Urgent Actions for Viet Nam opened in the Swedish capital on May 16, attended by 300 delegates from 21 international organizations and more than 50 countries.

Among representatives from Sweden, were Professor Gunnar Myrdal, President of the Swedish Committee in Support of Viet Nam, Pierre Schori, Secretary of the External Commission of the ruling Social-Democratic Party, and among delegates from the United States, Professor Norman Chomsky, Professor Richard Falk, Minister Thomas Lee Hayes.

After two days of discussion, the Conference went up with important conclusions.

Politically, it was agreed, signature-collecting campaigns, meeting and demonstrations would immediately be staged in all countries against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam, for withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet

Nam, and for the masses, backing of the NFL overall solution and strictures of world people. The appeal condemned the Nixon's "peace program". The delegates unanimously resolved to push up fund-raising drives, first of all to increase medical aid to the people in South Viet Nam liberated areas, and prepare for massive assistance to Viet Nam after the achievement of a genuine peace.

The heads of the NFL and RDVN, were Professor Gunnar Myrdal, President of the Swedish Committee in Support of Viet Nam, Pierre Schori, Secretary of the External Commission of the ruling Social-Democratic Party, and among delegates from the United States, Professor Norman Chomsky, Professor Richard Falk, Minister Thomas Lee Hayes.

After two days of discussion, the Conference went up with important conclusions.

In his closing speech, Mr Bertil Swahnstrom, Chairman of the Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam, pointed out that the successes of the conference, though substantial, were only initial ones. To attain its goal, which is U.S. withdrawal of all U.S. and white troops from South Viet Nam without any condition, the world's peoples must be mobilized into a broader, more persistent movement in support of Viet Nam.

The Conference in a body passed an appeal to the Nixon government intensifying of the war and bombings in South Viet Nam and continued violations of the sovereignty and repeated threats to the security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, in pursuance of the disastrous bankrupt policies of Lyndon Johnson. This must stop.

The overall peace solution proposed by the NFL at the Paris Conference clearly demonstrated the sense of responsibility and goodwill of the Vietnamese. This solution guarantees the fundamental rights of the Vietnamese people — independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity — as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements. It conforms to the realities of the situation in South Viet Nam. It expresses the national unity and the aspirations of all sections of the people of South Viet Nam. This important document is a welcome initiative aimed at promoting progress at the Paris Conference and was staged by workers of the Electric Wagon Workshop 3679 in Bulgaria, French and foreign students at Nanterre (near Paris) and at the Antony Researche University (Palaiseau, France).

The NFL ten-point overall solution has also enlisted the staunch support of the Fifth Conference of the International Union of Transport, Ports and Fishing Workers.

Trade Unions held in Berlin, from May 12 to 18.

Many meetings of mass organizations were held in socialist countries and other countries to welcome this important document. Let's note the similar meetings staged by workers of the Electric Wagon Workshop 3679 in Bulgaria, French and foreign students at Nanterre (near Paris) and at the Antony Researche University (Palaiseau, France).

The NFL ten-point overall solution has also enlisted the staunch support of the Fifth Conference of the International Union of Transport, Ports and Fishing Workers.

Tending the Young Shoots of the Fatherland

(Continued from page 3)

children set up teams to look after skinny animals. During the summer vacation of the 1967-1968 school year, apart from playing and revising their lessons, the children were still able to cut 2,264 tons of grass as fodder for 20,000 buffaloes. Many of them undertook to look after skinny buffaloes and oxen of co-operatives and feed them up into fat and robust animals. The Binh Sin and Ngoc trio of Ha Bac province sold to the State trade company an 82-kilo pig they had raised themselves. They decided to sent one-third of the proceeds as a gift to their little friends in the South, care of the South Viet Nam NFL. Permanent Representation in Hanoi.

Virtually everywhere, assistance to families of disabled or fallen army men, soldiers and youth volunteers has become a routine of children. In a number of provinces, they joined grown-ups in picking up and handing out U.S. pilots.

It is precisely by their love for learning that Vietnamese children have shown their love for the country.

Under intense enemy bombing and shelling they kept going to school, and in increasing numbers at night. Enrolment in general education schools in the 1958-1959 school year was 4,106,339 or an increase of 15% over the 1957-58 school year. When the Americans began attacking the DRVN, in the 4 years' fighting against the US war of destruction, 1,657 outstanding school pupils had the honour of receiving awards from President Ho Chi Minh.

Moving samples of the children's passion for learning can be found practically in all North Viet Nam provinces. A little boy named Hai, of Tien Hai district, Tien Binh province, completed his primary education though badly affected by polio. His class-

mate, Phong, knowing that he eagerly wanted to go on learning, ready came to his assistance. Phong lent him his text-books and passed on to him what he had learnt in class. With his determination and Phong's help, Phong's assistance, though having to stay home, Hai succeeded in completing the syllabuses of the 5th, 6th and 7th form of elementary education. When he finished the 7th form Phong carried him pick-a-back to sit for the end-of-term examination: both got through successfully and with good marks. They are now in the secondary school, Ha Xuan Tu of Nghe An province who sat both arms in an accident, insisted on being sent to school, he soon had learned to use his foot to write; his resolve helped him through every difficulty: he had got his 7-year elementary education and for 2 years running, he had won prizes given by Uncle Ho for his all-sided achievements in learning. His is not an isolated case. Nguyen Ngoc Ky of Nam Ha province crippled in both arms since childhood is now a 3rd year student of the faculty of literature at the General University.

Province after doing his lessons at night, went pest killing with an oil lamp in the ricefield until late hours. Little Dan of Nghe An province did not halt reading even while tending a buffalo in the tree-planting camp in a hundred years, nothing is like the training of new men.

Taking Uncle Ho's advice about good observance of hygiene, the children zealously kill flies, mosquitoes and rats and with one another in the three "clean" movement (clean food, clean drink, clean habits).

President Ho Chi Minh also encouraged modesty and honesty in the people, especially in the children. In the harsh conditions of war, Vietnamese children remain as fine as lotus flowers with their subtle fragrance. The return of lost property to their owners is not uncommon. 9-year-old Pham Quoc Thai of Hai Hung province has 24 times given back lost property to their owners. On a cold winter night, on his way from a group meeting, he picked up a padded jacket left on the roadside with 20 "dong" in one of its pockets. He waited for a long while in the dark night, the cold breeze for its owner to come back, but in vain. He took it home.

Next day, a holiday, he spent most of the time hanging about the spot where the garment had been found the previous night, hoping to meet its owner. He waited again disappointed. Finally he chose to take the jacket and money to the local police station.

Although the U.S. imperialists dropped millions of tons of bombs on North Viet Nam, yet they still failed to intimidate our children and to prevent them attending school in growing numbers and from singing, and singing aloud to drown with their songs the booming of U.S. bombs. Following in

the footsteps of their parents, brothers and sisters, they learn to become educated and to live like real men.

CHILD CARE, THE WORK OF THE ENTIRE PEOPLE

THESE fine deeds performed by Vietnamese children can be credited to the education given by the regime, especially by President Ho Chi Minh whom the children affectionately call "Uncle Ho". Our beloved leader has often said, "To reap in ten years, nothing is like tree-planting; to reap in a hundred years, nothing is like the training of new men."

On the President's instructions, our entire people are engaged in the care of the children. Parents in many parts of the country are "building" five-member families "which provide for many other things good

upbringing and good education for the children, show respect and set good examples for them. Our education department has worked out the following guiding line: combining education at school with education by the family and society. The Viet Nam Working Youth Union and the Vanguard Young Pioneers Brigade effectively assist the school in educating the children.

We believe that with the concern shown by the socialist state and the particularly great solicitude of President Ho Chi Minh, and relying on the people who have a tradition of real love and affection for children, we shall surely bring in a crop of new men who will continue to uphold the glorious cause of their nation, who treasure the care of the children, and who constantly promote the sense of solidarity with, and affection for, friends in all 5 continents.

Military Operations

(Continued from page 8)

destroyed on the routes around the city and Tan Son Nhut airbase also came under shelling.

In the Mekong Delta 25 cities, district towns and

military sub-sector H.Q.'s were attacked. Division H.Q.'s and Regiment C.P.'s were also hit. The PLAF were also very active in the provinces of Chau Doc, Kien Tuong and Kien Phong (Plan of Reeds), etc. Gung, Rach Gia and Ca Mau.

Why is U.S. Aggression in South Viet Nam..

(Continued from page 4)

such as massive troop buildup in South Viet Nam, use of land, air and naval power for fierce attacks against North Viet Nam a huge war budget) he turned out to be a fatal mistake. Nixon is faced with innumerable difficulties, but he would also commit a new, more serious mistake because it would occur in the last phase of the war already handicapped by errors and setbacks.

SEE IN OUR NEXT
III-DE-AMERICANISATION OF THE WAR: A VICIOUS CIRCLE!

right hand, crushed. And the first words she spoke to the hospital attendants were: "Oh, auntie, how can I from now on carry my youngest brother for a stroll!"

JOHNSON had promised many things and committed many crimes. Nixon is promising much more. But the over 1,000 people drowned in Ba Lang Bay, the 310 others killed at Kong H'King, the Catholic village of Thai Hiep raised to the ground etc. since he came to power to run his family household, seven two months later during another air raid on June 13, 1967 all the five were wounded. Mai was most grievously hit. When she came to on the hospital bed, she found that her left leg had been cut off and her

CHILDREN DAY STORIES

AN UNEXPECTED QUESTION

THEY took to the doctor a patient whose arm had been amputated up to the armpit. The operation had been a splendid success and the patient was doing strong. To tell the truth, when he was shown to the doctor, he had completely recovered and was in high spirits. But he had been pondering over something. "My hands caught fire and I dropped my child whose body was also blazing with napalm. It was absolutely impossible for me to rescue her since not only my hands, but my feet and face were also burning. Thus, under my helpless and terrified eyes, my daughter died eaten up by the flames."

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ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

MILITARY OPERATIONS

National, Democratic and Peace Forces

Alliance backs NFL ten points

"Nixon Is Following Johnson's Beaten Track" Alliance's Leader Declares

In a statement dated May 15, 1969, Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao expressed on behalf of the Central Committee of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, full support for the ten-point overall solution proposed by the NFL representation at the Paris Conference. The Alliance's President pointed

out that the spirit of this overall solution was "completely consonant with the Manifesto for National Salvation and the Political Program of the Alliance as well as with the political line followed by it for over a year now."

Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao called on all intellectuals and personalities, all political, religious, cultural and social groupings and organizations in South Vietnam cities, all overseas Vietnamese all peace- and justice-loving peoples and governments and all democratic and peace organizations throughout the world to lend a vigorous support to the NFL ten points.

The Alliance hoped that the United States could finally find in these ten points the "honourable" way out it had been looking for, Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao said in his statement. The path shown by the NFL, he added, was the only one that would enable the US to pull an end to the dirty war which every day dimmed its image, took a toll of the lives and wealth of its citizens and brought it only hatred from other nations.

The statement went on: "Such men in the Johnson team as were in favour of the continued presence of the US in South Viet Nam, like Humphrey, Clifford, Goldberg, etc., have now raised their voices to urge a rapid repatriation of US soldiers. Incentive and Republican senators, including William A. Jenner, Scott, etc., have also called for the withdrawal of American troops from South Vietnam. However, Nixon has not drawn any lesson from his setbacks for a more intelligent political line in South Vietnam. In his eight-point peace program, he continued to stick to his presumptuous and irrational (mutual withdrawal of troops) proposal and he did not let down his warlike clique of agents, the Thieu-Ky-Huynh triumvirate, whom he wanted to entrust with the task of organizing eventual general elections."

"Nixon is following Johnson's beaten track," Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao concluded, "and the dirty war in Vietnam has become Nixon's criminal war. There is no doubt that more grievous setbacks are in store for the United States as a result of its president's obstinacy and short-sighted policy."

(Continued page 7)

GIAP PHONG Press Agency has just summed up PLAF activities in the first 4 days of the new wave of offensives on the night of May 11 throughout South Viet Nam.

Following their assaults in the first days of May in the sectors of Tay Ninh and Long Khanh to the Northwest and Northeast of Saigon respectively, of Dakto (in the Western Highlands) and of Da Nang, the PLAF sprang into action in the small hours of May 12 in all theatres of operation, from the areas close to the 17th parallel down to the Ca Mau peninsula in the Southernmost sector of the country.

According to still incomplete initial statistics, 400 targets were hit by the PLAF either by artillery fire or ground assaults, or by both. Eighty cities, provincial capitals and district towns came under fire as well as 23 airfields and 33 H.Q.'s and CP's of regiment, brigade, division or army corps size and logistic bases of the US-puppets.

Following is a general picture of various theatres of operation:

In the 2 northern provinces of South Viet Nam (Quang Tri and Thua Thien), on the very first night, more than 20 raids were mounted. The whole defence line along Highway No. 9 South of the DMZ was shaken. Connection points such as **Cua Viet** port, **Dong Ha** (US g'd Marine Division base), **Ca Lu**, **Tan Lang** (known to Americans as Rickpile), **Ma Mau** (the Far West fort of the system) **Gia Linh** (farthest in the North), etc., were heavily pounded or assaulted by the PLAF, which triggered off big fires and inflicted heavy damage on the installations.

To the Southwest of Hue and in the hilly areas of this sector where elements of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division attempted a sweep to hold firm on Route 12, the PLAF in 4 days put nearly 900 enemy troops out of action, destroying 3 U.S. battalions and 2 U.S. battalion C.P.'s.

In the coastal fringe, they attacked the airfields of **At Tan**, Northwest of Quang Tri, **Tay Loc** in the Hue city area, and **Phu Bai**, South of Hue, Fort Mang Ca in Hue was not spared.

In the 11 provinces of Central and South Trung Bo, to the Northeast of Saigon, between Da Nang and Phan

Thiet and in the Western Highlands, 220 targets were chosen by the PLAF for their strikes, including bases, positions, airfields and military depots in 7 cities and 20 districts, towns, and sub-sector H.Q.'s; nearly 7,000 adverse casualties were listed among them 4,000 G.I.'s, 5 infantry battalions, an armoured column, 3 battalion C.P.'s and some 20 companies wiped out or decimated, more than 100 military vehicles, 53 cannons and 6 logistic depots destroyed, 87 planes and helicopters shot down or burnt, and more than 300 weapons seized by the patriots. Enemy base under attack included more than 30 battalion and regiment C.P.'s and Brigade Division and Army Corps H.Q.'s and 14 military airposts.

In this 4-day period, the **Da Nang** air base and the C.P. of the U.S. 4th Marine regiment at An Hoa (45km Southwest of Da Nang) were

incinerated. Quang Nam were also badly mauled; losing several companies and an armoured sub-regiment put out of action or decimated, 400 casualties reported, 31 vehicles wrecked, 15 planes and helicopters downed and some 80 weapons seized by the PLAF.

Further South, 400 enemy soldiers were knocked out of action on the night of May 11 at Song Mao (200km East-Northeast of Saigon), the base camp of puppet Regiment 41.

In the Western Highlands, the H.Q.'s of Corps II in Pleiku and of the puppet 3rd Infantry Division in Buon Me Thuot were hit. On the highways, several enemy convoys suffered heavy losses.

Meanwhile, the guerrillas and regional troops of the PLAF neutralized some 100 military posts and "pacifi-

An American L-19 plane downed in Tay Ninh province

attacked each 3 times. At **Phuoc Tuong** in the Da Nang port area, the PLAF struck at a missile base, destroying 2 U.S. companies, 5 launching ramps and dozens of missiles.

Further Southeast, in the **Tam Ky**, **Chu Lai** and **Quang Ngai** sectors, the American Division also sustained serious losses. Its C.P. and those of its 16th, 18th and 19th brigades as well as 3 battalion C.P.'s were raided and 2,000 G.P.'s put out of action. Puppet troops in the pro-

cessionary teams, and did away with what remained of the enemy coercive apparatus in the rural areas.

In **Eastern Nam Bo**, i.e. on the Saigon front, the whole enemy defence line in all directions and around the capital was shaken.

In **Tay Ninh** province, over 20 targets were attacked in force and 2 battalions of the First Air Cav. were written off, one on May 12 at **Ca Chiem** (45km East-Northeast of Tay Ninh) and the other 3 days later at **Soc Ta Te** (20km Northeast of Tay Ninh). A puppet paratroop battalion was wiped out on the night of May 11 at **Ca Chiem**, about a dozen kilometers South-Southwest of Tay Ninh.

At about the same time, the PLAF destroyed a battalion C.P. and depleted an artillery battalion of the **Big Red One** at **Phuoc Long**, 177km North-Northeast of Saigon. Less than 24 hours later, in the sector of **Hon Quan**, another provincial capital 96km North of Saigon, 2 U.S. bases lost nearly 1,000 men killed or wounded, 100 armoured cars and trucks and 22

heavy cannons destroyed and 21 planes and helicopters shot down or blasted to pieces on the ground.

Further South, in the **Ben Cat** area, 42km North-Northeast of Saigon, on the night of May 11, the PLAF wiped out a mixed U.S. battalion at **Ca Tong**, while on the front South-West of Saigon, in **Tan An** province, 13 enemy positions were struck, among them a Regiment CP and several district towns. Closer to Saigon, a U.S. paratroop battalion was decimated at **Go Noi**.

Finally to the East of Saigon, at about 28km from the city, on the night of May 11, the PLAF destroyed at **Hon Son**, first two Thai companies, then a Thai battalion sent in to rescue the former.

In Saigon itself, the people's self-defence forces stepped up their onsets in the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 6th districts, putting 150 enemy die-hard agents out of action.

Many vehicles of the aggressors and traitors were

LATEST NEWS

Operation "Appach Snow" in the hilly area west of Hue:

From May 12 to 21, 1,500 U.S. "paras" of the 101st Division killed or wounded, chiefly in A Bia mountain range.

Da Nang and Nuec Man airfield bombarded on the night of May 10; 25 planes and choppers destroyed, heavy material damage.

(Giai Phong Press Agency)

Biggest enemy depot in Saigon region completely blotted out by PLAF on May 23

(Western reports)